

TITLE: Delayed Delivery

BOOK: Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul

PAGE: 3

TIME TO READ: 7 minutes

TOPICS: **On Love**  
Tough Stuff—death  
Christmas spirit

AGE LEVEL: Grades 3 and up

SYNOPSIS: A recent widow receives a surprise puppy for Christmas—it is a gift planned by her husband three weeks before his death.

NOTES TO TEACHER:

You may wish to have a box of tissues nearby for this story!

Death is a “heavy” topic for any age to discuss. However, this story may help even the youngest students to deal with grief because of the hopeful ending.

This story lends itself to three totally different directions in its questions and activities:

1. What do we *value* in life—and how to live each day to the fullest.
2. Dealing with the death of someone we love and the sadness and/or loneliness that follows.
3. Recognizing and facing our own mortality.

It is probably best to choose *one* direction that best suits your students. Adjust the questions and activities from any of the plans to suit age-levels.

Refer to book appendix for several student worksheets dealing with feelings.

## ***Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul*** **Delayed Delivery**

HIGH SCHOOL:

PRE-QUESTIONS:

If you were told that you only had six months to live, what would you do with your time?

- What would be *important* to you?
- Is this something that is of great importance to you right now?
- Why, or why not?

Do you think we are ever “ready” for the death of someone close to us? Explain.

Do you think we are ever “ready” for our own death? Explain.

- What would “*ready*” *look like or feel like* to you?

### **Read Story**

POST-QUESTIONS:

Do you know any “Stella’s” in your world?

Have you ever thought about what “old age” would be like for you?

With modern medicine and technology, many of you will live to be over 100.

Describe what you *want* your life to be like in your later years.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

Plan your own funeral/cremation/memorial service for some date in the *distant future*.

Write your own eulogy. . . . Obituaries . . . choose music you want played . . . who will speak about you at the service? Etc.

Read ***Tuesday's with Morrie*** by Mitch Albom is a wonderful book about *living* before you die.

Create a piece of artwork that is a reflection of this story for you.